

Message Text

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SUBJECT: NASA/ISRO MEETING

DEPT PASS NASA FRUTKIN CLAPP FROM BARNES

NEW DELHI FOR SCIATT WILLIAMS

1. FOLLOWING SITE WRAP-UP MEETING TODAY, ISRO ISSUED PRESS
RELEASE WITH MATHEWS AND BARNES CONCURRENCE.

2. TEXT FOLLOWS: QUOTE THE TENTH JOINT MEETING OF THE TEAMS
RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SATELLITE INSTRUCTIONAL
TELEVISION EXPERIMENT (SITE) FROM INDIAN SPACE RESEARCH ORGANIZATION
AND FROM NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION WAS HELD
IN AHMEDADBAD, DELHI, HYDERABAD AND BOMBAY BETWEEN 9TH AND 18TH
OF APRIL. SUCH WORKING LEVEL MEETINGS HAVE BEEN HELD TWICE A YEAR
SINCE THE AGREEMENT TO CONDUCT THE SITE EXPERIMENT IN INDIA WAS
SIGNED. REPRESENTATIVES FROM ALL INDIA RADIO, WHICH HAS
PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE TV PROGRAMMES FOR SITE, HAVE
BEEN REGULAR PARTICIPANTS AT THESE MEETINGS. ACCORDING TO THIS
AGREEMENT, THE APPLICATIONS TECHNOLOGY SATELLITE-6, WHICH
SUITS THE REQUIREMENTS OF SITE, WAS TO BE LOANED TO INDIA FOR
THIS EXPERIMENT FOR A PERIOD OF ONE YEAR. THE GROUND SEGMENT
IN INDIA INCLUDING ALL THE EARTH STATIONS AND AUGMENTED TV
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RECEIVERS WERE TO BE DEVELOPED AND INSTALLED BY INDIA. THE

INDIAN SIDE ALSO HAD THE RESPONSIBILITY OF PRODUCING DEVELOPED-
MENTAL PROGRAMMES TO BE BROADCAST DURING THE EXPERIMENT AS
ALSO FOR ITS EVALUATION, BOTH IN TECHNICAL AND SOCIAL TERMS.
THE MANAGEMENT TEAMS USED TO MEET TWICE A YEAR--ONCE IN INDIA
AND ONCE IN THE US TILL THE ATS-6 WAS SUCCESSFULLY LAUNCHED
LAST YEAR. AFTER THAT TWO MEETINGS HAVE BEEN HELD IN INDIA.
IN THESE MEETINGS A THOROUGHLY PROFESSIONAL REVIEW IS MADE
OF THE STATUS AND PERFORMANCE OF BOTH THE SPACE AND GROUND
SEGMENTS OF THIS EXPERIMENT. THE MEETINGS ALSO DEFINE THE
INTERFACES AND FUNCTIONS OF VARIOUS PEOPLE DURING THE
OPERATIONAL PHASE OF THE EXPERIMENT.

THE PRESENT MEETING IS EXCEEDINGLY IMPORTANT BECAUSE
ALL THE MAJOR ELEMENTS OF THE EXPERIMENT SHOULD MESH
INTO EACH OTHER AND BE SUBSTANTIALLY READY FOR THE START
OF THE EXPERIMENT IN A FEW MONTHS FROM NOW.
THE SPACECRAFT WHICH WAS LAUNCHED ON 30TH OF MAY LAST
YEAR IS WORKING VERY WELL.

THE PRIME EARTH STATION IN AHMEDABAD HAS BEEN FULLY
CHECKED OUT AND IS NOW OPERATIONAL. IT IS EXPECTED THAT
THE EARTH STATIONS IN DELHI AND AMRITSAR WILL BE COMPLETED
BEFORE THE EXPERIMENT BEGINS.

ALL THE EQUIPMENT FOR THE 2400 DIRECT RECEPTION SETS HAS
BEEN MANUFACTURED AND DELIVERED TO VARIOUS CLUSTERS AND
HAS BEEN SUBSTANTIALLY DEPLOYED IN THE VILLAGES.

THE EVALUATION PLANS HAVE BEEN FORMULATED AND THE PRE-
SITE EVALUATION ACTIVITY HAS ALREADY STARTED.

THE PROGRAMME PRODUCTION ACTIVITY FOR THE EXPERIMENT HAS
ACQUIRED GREAT VIGOUR AND ALREADY ABOUT 380 HOURS OF
PROGRAMMES HAVE BEEN PRODUCED OR IDENTIFIED BY ALL
INDIA RADIO. THE THREE DEDICATED BASE PRODUCTION UNITS
OF AIR ARE BUSY MAKING PROGRAMMES OF RELEVANCE TO
DIFFERENT AREAS IN WHICH THE EXPERIMENT WOULD BE
CONDUCTED. A SMALL STUDIO IN BOMBAY IS MAKING SCIENCE
PROGRAMMES WHILE ANOTHER TV STUDIO, IN AHMEDABAD WILL
SOON START PRODUCING PROGRAMMES FOR THE KHEDA DISTRICT
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OF GUJARAT.

THE OPERATIONS DETAILS HAVE BEEN WORKED OUT.

THE UTILIZATION ACTIVITY IS GATHERING MOMENTUM.

NASA HAVE PLANNED TO MOVE THE SPACECRAFT WHICH IS AT
THE MOMENT IN AN EQUATORIAL ORBIT OVER 94 DEGREES W, EASTWARDS

IN THE THIRD WEEK OF MAY. IT WOULD BE WITHIN VIEW OF
AHMEDABAD BY THE END OF JUNE. THE MONTH OF JULY WILL
BE DEVOTED TO A TESTING AND CHECK OUT PROGRAMME AND
ACTUAL TRANSMISSIONS TO THE VILLAGES WILL START IN THE
BEGINNING OF AUGUST.

THE PESENT ISRO/NASA REVIEW CLEARLY INDICATES THAT THE
EXPERIMENT WILL BE ABLE TO MEET ITS OBJECTIVES.

IN INDIA A LARGE NUMBER OF ORGANIZATIONS AND GOVERNMENT
AGENCIES ARE COOPERATING TO MAKE THIS EXPERIMENT INTO A
BOLD ADVENTURE INTO THE FUTURE. UNQUOTE
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